



COVID-19 GUIDANCE

for Safe Handling of Human Remains of COVID-19 Positive Patients in Louisiana Region 1 Hospitals

Louisiana will follow the CDC Guidance regarding the safe handling of COVID-19 positive remains.

These recommendations give guidance on the safe handling of human remains that may contain Corona virus and are for use by personnel who perform postmortem care in Louisiana Region 1 hospitals. In patients who die from COVID-19 virus, virus may be transmitted during postmortem care.

Only personnel trained in handling infected human remains and wearing appropriate PPE, should touch or move any COVID-19 infected remains. Handling of the remains should be kept to a minimum.

Personal protective equipment for postmortem care personnel

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Postmortem preparation of the body:

1. Identify (tag) the remains per hospital policy.
2. Insert cotton balls, wet with antiseptic solution, or other appropriate antiseptic materials into the mouth, nose, and ear openings.
3. Cover face with antiseptic cloth or other materials, wet with antiseptic solution.
4. Place the remains in a plastic shroud (white shroud may be used) without contaminating the outside of the shroud.
5. Wipe the closed plastic shroud, containing the remains, with antiseptic cloth.
6. After the shroud has dried, place clear identify of the remains and indicate that antiseptic packaging has been carried out.
7. Place the shroud, wrapped remains in a second plastic shroud (black shroud).
8. Wipe the plastic shroud with antiseptic cloth.
9. After the shroud has dried, clearly identify the remains and indicate that antiseptic packaging has been carried out.
10. Place a tape across the zipper portion of the outer shroud to indicate infectious remains are in the shroud.
11. Transport the bagged remains to the hospital morgue.
12. Perform surface decontamination of the transport gurney.
13. Clean and disinfect the patient's room according to CDC protocol.
14. Notify the Coroner's Office or funeral home that the remains are COVID-19 positive or suspected.